

**INITIAL STATEMENT OF REASONS  
FOR  
PROPOSED BUILDING STANDARDS  
OF THE  
OFFICE OF STATEWIDE HEALTH PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT  
REGARDING THE CALIFORNIA MECHANICAL CODE,  
CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 24, PART 4  
  
ADOPTION OF THE 2003 UNIFORM MECHANICAL CODE**

The Administrative Procedure Act (APA) requires that an Initial Statement of Reasons be available to the public upon request when rulemaking action is being undertaken. The following information required by the APA pertains to this particular rulemaking action:

**STATEMENT OF SPECIFIC PURPOSE AND RATIONALE:**

The Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (OSHPD) is mandated to adopt the most recent edition of model code, as amended by the Office, pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 18928. This proposed rulemaking represents the Office's proposal to adopt the 2003 Uniform Mechanical Code (UMC) published by International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO) and carry forward existing California amendments of the 2001 California Mechanical Code (CMC). It was also necessary to propose a few editorial and minor technical modifications to the existing requirements for clarification and consistency within the code as identified below:

**Chapter 1**

**Section 108.1.1.12** is being amended for the following reason:

The Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development promulgates and enforces regulations for hospitals and skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) in California. Historically, the California Building Code has included different requirements for hospital-based skilled nursing units than it has for freestanding SNFs on a hospital license and for separately licensed SNFs.

Section 72103, Title 22, CCR, defines "skilled nursing facility" as "a health facility or a distinct part of a hospital which provides continuous skilled nursing care and supportive care to patients whose primary need is for availability of skilled nursing care on an extended basis." This definition makes no distinction between skilled nursing services that are provided as a distinct part unit in an acute care hospital, as a distinct part in a freestanding building on the hospital license, or a freestanding separately licensed SNF. Therefore, the regulations that apply to skilled nursing services should be the same, regardless of the type of facility in which the services are provided.

The purpose for this change is to make the regulations for skilled nursing facilities the same, whether the facility is a freestanding separately licensed SNF, a freestanding SNF building on a hospital license, or a distinct part SNF unit in a hospital building.

**Chapter 3**

**Section 316** is being amended to provide essential mechanical requirements for surgical clinics. This provision is currently being enforced pursuant to California Electrical Code Section 517-34. Including the requirement in the CMC will provide clarification and consistency with other parts of Title 24.

**Chapter 4**

**Section 407.4.1.3, Exception 2.** Section 407.4.1.3, exception 1, currently permits air from corridors to serve toilet rooms up to 30 square feet. However, Title 24 accessibility requirements do not permit a toilet room of 30 square feet. Since virtually all toilet rooms entered from corridors must be accessible to persons with disabilities, this exception provides no benefit for these rooms. Therefore, OSHPD is proposing a new exception to allow air from corridors to serve toilet rooms up to 50 square feet. This new exception applies only to toilet rooms since there is no reason to increase the minimum size of the other small room types identified in Section 407.4.1.3, Exception No. 1. The ventilation requirements for the toilet rooms will remain the same.

Changes shown to 407.4.1.3, exception 2 and section 707.4.1.5 are errata items from the 2002 annual code cycle that were not published.

**Section 408.1.5, Exception** is being amended to clarify that dry-steam type humidifiers may be installed downstream of the “final” filter bank instead of the No. 2 filter bank. Currently, rooms of a hospital are required to have one, two or three filter banks depending on the designation/use of that room. The amendment will clarify that no matter how many filter banks are in the ventilation system the dry-steam humidifiers may be located downstream from the last filter bank. This amendment also provides for greater flexibility of HVAC design for hospitals.

## **Chapter 5**

**Section 508.1.** An existing amendment from Section 509.2, 2001 CMC, is being carried forward to the appropriate location in the 2003 UMC (Section 508.1).

## **Chapter 6**

**Section 602, Exception-** Section 602, exception 1, currently permits air from corridors to serve toilet rooms up to 30 square feet. However, Title 24 accessibility requirements do not permit a toilet room of 30 square feet. Since virtually all toilet rooms entered from corridors must be accessible to persons with disabilities, this exception provides no benefit for these rooms. Therefore, OSHPD is proposing a new exception to allow air from corridors to serve toilet rooms up to 50 square feet. This new exception applies only to toilet rooms since there is no reason to increase the minimum size of the other small room types identified in Section 602, Exception No. 1. The ventilation requirements for the toilet rooms will remain the same.

**Section 607.1.1** is being amended to indicate that the enforcement of the requirement applies to licensed clinics (OSHPD 3). This change is consistent with the enforcement of a related requirement in Section 407.4.1.4.

## **Chapter 7**

**Section 707.2.1** is an existing OSHPD amendment of the 2001 CMC which is no longer necessary, since the requirement is now included in the 2003 UMC.

## **Chapter 9**

The following two amendments of the 2001 CMC will be carried forward and need to be relocated: Section 904.8 regarding prohibited locations for warm air furnaces and Section 912.0 regarding vented decorative appliances. Because of new/revised model code language and formatting these two amendments are being relocated as sub-items under Section 902.0-General of the 2003 UMC.

## **Chapter 11**

**Table 11-1, Footnote** - Renumbering the existing 2001 CMC, Table 11-1 Footnote No. 14 to No. 13 will accommodate the reduced number of footnotes in the 2003 UMC Table 11-1.

### **TECHNICAL, THEORETICAL, AND EMPIRICAL STUDY, REPORT, OR SIMILAR DOCUMENTS:**

There are no documents to identify.

### **CONSIDERATION OF REASONABLE ALTERNATIVES**

There are no alternatives to be considered by OSHPD. This proposal represents the mandated adoption of the model code.

**REASONABLE ALTERNATIVES THE AGENCY HAS IDENTIFIED THAT WOULD LESSEN ANY ADVERSE IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESS.**

This proposal will not impose an adverse economic impact on small businesses.

**FACTS, EVIDENCE, DOCUMENTS, TESTIMONY, OR OTHER EVIDENCE OF NO SIGNIFICANT ADVERSE IMPACT ON BUSINESS.**

This proposal will not impose an adverse impact on businesses.